



Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

December 2013

President's Message

By Ann Barklow

It is a chilly morning after Thanksgiving as I write this. I can't think of a better way to start my morning then by writing to my favorite group of smart gardeners.

I'll have you know I fought off the temptation of having a piece of pumpkin pie for breakfast. After all it is a vegetable right? Speaking of vegetables, my collards love the cold and seem to get tastier. I made a batch for Thanksgiving with giblet broth and pieces of the turkey neck mixed with onions and carrots. It was delicious!

Believe it or not all those freezing temperatures in the past few weeks haven't killed off my Green Ice or Mixed Romaine lettuce. I have them under a row cover all the time and at night I add a flannel sheet or old dog blanket depending on the weather. Keeping them under the row cover still allows light and moisture to get to the plants but it also improves the growth from the heat generated under the cover. I have a two cauliflower seedlings growing under the cover and a couple outside of it and the ones under the cover are twice the size. I put a link to the Green Ice lettuce since it has become my favorite because it is a crunchy delicious leaf lettuce that has a lovely light green color and is slow to bolt in the heat. I grow it in spring and fall.

I continue to eat my sweet potatoes that I harvested at the end of summer and



cut them in cubes and roast them in the oven adding chunks of Winterbor kale at the end. You can make this for breakfast with a few fresh eggs. Here is the Tastespotting site I found it on.

Working for the City of Greenwood has continued to be a lot of fun. Most of my days are spent designing the topiaries and calculating how many plants they

need. Once that is decided, I can then pick out the stock plants in the greenhouse that we will propagate from cuttings and put a plant label in it with the number of plants I need. We need to start them now because some of the topiaries are going out on May 1st for the big golf tournament coming to town. We also have 14 topiaries going to various schools in March. I've also ordered seeds for some new plant varieties and have them growing now. I have some Carex testacea in the back shed because they need cold stratification for four to six weeks and it gets down in the 20's so they will be happy. This is a first for me in learning about the importance of cold stratification and I must admit it is strange to walk back there in the cold dark shed and see them. We are going to try this grass out on the lion's mane instead of the Mondo grass.

Con't. p.2

Dates to Remember:

- DEC. 6TH— ARBOR DAY AT USC UPSTATE
- DEC. 12TH MEMBER SOCIAL 6:30 PM GMD
- FEB. 1ST GREENVILLE GARDEN SYMPOSIUM (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR DETAILS)
- APRIL 11 & 12TH 2014 PLANT SALE
- OCTOBER 23RD SCMMGA SYMPOSIUM

Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale April 11, 12, 2014

Wow what a different weather year! After all the rain, cool air temperatures, and overcast days, the sun came out HOT and then the land was dry. I have seen flowers bloom that I have not seen bloom before, drought tolerant flowers have drowned, bulletproof flowers have surrendered. As gardeners we never give up we plan for the spring. Now is the time to start dividing plants, placing them in pots, labeling the pots spring here we come. One of Ann's neighbors has a bed of bearded irises she is donating to our sale all we have to do is dig them up and put them in pots. We need volunteers to help with this project, if you are interested please call me. Thank You Sarah 803-348-0256.

The mission of the Lakelands Master Gardeners, in association with the Greenwood County Clemson Extension office, is to extend to the public research-based education, horticultural programs and activities that enhance our environment, lives and community.

The Lakelands Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization made up of Master Gardeners from Abbeville and Greenwood Counties in SC.

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I am also spending time experimenting with certain plants and propagating them in moss so that the transition into the topiaries won't be as traumatic and there won't be soil to deal with. This is currently working out very well. I was always attracted to employment opportunities that did gardening experiments and research and I get to do a lot of that with this job. I will start with this newsletter and continue every month with a short article on the plants we are experimenting with for the topiary display for 2014. Since some of these plants will likely be at the Spring Plant sale, be sure to study up on them.



It was a happy Tuesday evening on November 19 as we welcomed 19 students into the Lakelands Master Gardeners as official Interns! Thank you to the MG's that came to classes week after week to help grade papers, sign in the students, answer questions about hours, etc., and help to set out the meals and clean up so James could get home.

Front Row: Renea Sprowl, Sharon Mobley, Renee Wynn, Sara Kummer

Row 2: Calvin Simpkins, Chris Ester, Sharon "Tickie" Mobley, Lola Wynter, LMG President, Ann Barklow, Nancy Bruce, Olivia Reynolds, Steve Loggins

Row 3 Back Row: Bill Aaron, Cyndy Aaron, David Belcher, Billy Morgan, Whitney Newby, Tom Simpson, Mary Rylander

We may not have a lot of projects going now but we are keeping busy with what we do have. We also have a lot of us working behind the scenes teaching at schools, garden clubs, community gardens, and neighborhoods. Kudos to all of you.

Speaking of projects some very hardworking members came by the City Greenhouse and dismantled the jeep since we are redesigning it this year. No more begonias! Yeah for me since the gamecock keeps me pretty busy cutting them back. We will be updating the irrigation and repairing the tires and adding new plants. See more about helping with that project in this newsletter.

Don't miss the annual Christmas Social on December 12. I unfortunately have a conflict and will be attending my husband's graduation from Piedmont Tech. Steve often tells me he's smart because he married me and that is a very nice compliment but it turns out he really **is** smart. He will be graduating with honors for his high GPA and also will receive recognition as one of the highest academic achievers among the graduates from Greenwood County. Way to go Steve!

We will have the usual amazing potluck and lovely decorations and the committee always provides great gifts for the raffle. We would like the new interns to stand and be applauded so please come. It is a huge accomplishment to pass that course and put in all those hours of class and study. I am going to add Donna's e-mail right here so you can take a short break from reading this and let her and the committee know if you are coming and what you will be bringing. I know that the biggest challenge they have is the RSVP's so please let them know now. Donnafeldy@aol.com

We had a great attendance for the last Membership and Speaker meeting of the year. 18 people from the public came along with a lot of members. What a great year it has been and we are looking forward to another great year of topics in 2014. Please let me know if you would like to help with that this coming year. There is more on the local Farmers Penny and Chris and their great panel discussion in this newsletter.

I will miss all of you at the Christmas Social but will see you soon and I keep up with many of you on Facebook. Have a great holiday season and Merry Christmas to y'all!

Don't Want to Lose You---Last Call for 2014 Dues!

By Chuck Bender

This is the last call for 2014 LMG Dues if you want to be a member for 2014. Now that we are a nonprofit corporation with an Annual Meeting/Election held in February of every year, dues must be paid before 12/31/13 which is the official record date in order to be able to vote. This will also entitle you to continue receiving the monthly newsletter and participate in functions such as the December Christmas Dinner, February Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic.

Since the original announcement in the September newsletter and subsequent newsletter reminders, we have also sent courtesy email reminders as well as actual letters where email addresses were unavailable.

The annual dues is \$20 plus a \$5 late fee is now required after November 1st for a total of \$25. Make your check payable to Lakelands Master Gardener Organization (LMG Inc) and drop off at the December 12th Christmas Dinner or mail to:

Chuck Bender, 108 Inlet Pt., Cross Hill, SC 29332-4034



Rusty Wilson, Jimmy McInville, Donna Feldmaier and Sue Monaghan working on the Jeep

JEEP WORK BEGINS IN NOVEMBER 2013 FOR JUNE 2014 FESTIVAL OF FLOWER

A big thank you to Project Chairs Sue Monaghan and Jimmy McInville for setting up the first workday in the chilly fall. The greenhouse stays at 50 degrees and the worker bees took most of the plants off of the jeep. We have some exciting changes that will take place for next year. If you are interested in helping with the jeep, be sure to let Sue know so she can add you to her mailing list and keep you informed of the work days.. suemona@nctv.com

Lakelands Master Gardener Inc.

2014 Membership Renewal Form

Check one: Renewal New Member/Transfer
 Lifetime Membership (Previous Grandfather_Change of Information Only)

We want you to know that your membership dues are important to us, even if you are not able to be active or have not attained enough volunteer hours. The money we receive from our active and inactive members supports many worthwhile projects such as the Connie Maxwell vegetable gardens, the Burton Center sensory gardens and our most recent tribute to our veterans, the Veterans Healing Garden. Membership dues also contribute to our scholarship funds, and this year we provided scholarships to 4 students.

Please renew your MG membership now by completing this form and paying your dues for the coming year. Members who pay dues by October 31st will be included in the Lakelands Master Gardener Membership Directory and will receive uninterrupted membership benefits. These include: monthly email newsletter; information about upcoming educational speakers; notification of social activities such as the annual picnic and Christmas Party; and membership voting rights (for active members with required volunteer hours).

Master Gardener Membership Dues: (Select your Membership Category by checking)

- Individual \$ 20
- Individual paid after October 31st \$ 25 (includes \$ 5 late fee)

Make your check payable to Lakelands Master Gardener Organization (LMG Inc) and drop off at the September member meeting or mail to:

Chuck Bender 108 Inlet Pt. Cross Hill, SC 29332-4034

Membership dues are due by October 31st of each year.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone# - Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Year Graduated MG Program: _____ Transfer? (Y/N) _____ From: _____

- Check here if you do **not** wish to be listed in the directory.
 - Special Instructions for publishing personal data in directory: _____
-

Please indicate the committee(s) you are interested in working with: (Number from most important to least important)

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ___ Community Projects | ___ Membership | ___ Public Relations |
| ___ Education | ___ Clemson Ext office | ___ Web Site |
| ___ Face Book Page | ___ Newsletter | ___ Social Activities |
| ___ Fund Raising | ___ Programs & Speakers | ___ Phone |

Suggested topics/activities for the meetings or continuing education: _____

FULL HOUSE FOR LAST SPEAKER MEETING OF 2013

By Ann Barklow



Susi Bender introducing Local Farmers Penny Parisi from Parisi Farms and Chris Sermons from Bio-Way Farms

There was a slight mix up with the library for our meeting last month but they were kind enough to put us in another room of the library to have our meeting. About 18 members of the community came, along with a very good showing of LMG's and the room was packed. This sends a wonderful message that many people are interested in year round vegetable gardening.

Tips such as starting cauliflower and Brussels sprouts from seeds at the end of July through the end of August for the best crop. Winterbor Kale can be harvested from Fall to Spring by just picking the outside leaves. A good online source for Cold Hardy selections is [Fedco Seeds](#) which carries Giant Winter Spinach along with Good King Henry that can be started in September and survives the coldest of winters into spring. Spinach is great for winter because it likes to germinate in cold soil.

Starting your fall/winter garden seeds in mid July to the end of August was discussed. Using shade cloth and

keeping them as cool as you can is not easy but the effort is worth it. By the third week in September you can start harvesting some of your vegetables.

The HGIC 1256 bulletin: [Planning a Garden](#) has a great chart for planting dates for various vegetables but both farmers recommend that you push the envelope on those dates. The dates are to set you up for the best success but you can start earlier or later too. Penny stressed to all of us to experiment and try different techniques and plants. That's how we learn. If they end up making it - good, if they don't you learned and they can be used in the compost pile. Penny also grows Globe Artichokes that are ready at the end of March or first of April. Other varieties for the fall garden are Fava beans, carrots, beets, Kohlrabi, sorrel, chicory and arugula. Kales, Collards and Broccoli are great for the fall and winter into spring.

Good seed sources are [Johnny's Seeds](#), [Territorial Seed Company](#) and [Fedco Seeds](#). These companies have a good variety of organic, sustainable, and GMO free seeds.

Both of our local farmers like fall winter gardening the best; fewer pests, nicer temperatures and less watering. Be sure to LIKE both Parisi Farms and Bio-Way Farms on Facebook so you can keep up with what is going on in year round farming.

Still not sure about gardening nonstop? Pick up the book [Four-Season Harvest](#) by Eliot Coleman. This should be on everyone's Christmas list. I'm so excited about next years fall winter vegetable garden but for now I will head out and plant some spinach, carrots and beet seeds and see what happens.



Frosty Tuscan and Winterbor Kale with Collards and Broccoli in Ann's Fall/Winter Garden

Random Thoughts on Starting Seeds

By Sandy Orr

I just received shipment from Seedaholics (UK) for which I paid \$10 shipping and \$6 VAT tax, my most costly seed purchase ever. I want to do right by them. Twenty years of seed-starting has whittled down my options to three methods. Reasons for eliminating some popular standard methods may or may not resonate with you because individual gardeners have vastly differing experiences.

A mini-4 tiered plastic sheeted greenhouse with heat mats and suspended fluorescent lights now languishes in my garage. After years of frustration with damping off and spindly growth, I retired it. My refusal to bleach all components to operating room standards each year most likely led to these results.

So, I'm left with (1) direct sowing seeds in the fall. Or (2) winter-sowing seeds in plastic clamshell containers, that are left outside, or (3) waiting until the soil is 60 degrees to direct sow more tropical annual seeds. All my seeds are somewhat deer repulsive.



Direct Fall Sowing- It is probably too late for this to be done now. I seeded these out between October 15 and November 15, right after there was a good rain. When drought ensued, I hand watered. When it got too cold, I threw a piece of white row cover over it. I planted in mounds of moderately decomposed wood, composted grass clippings, leaves, and kitchen waste. On top of this I spread two inches or so of purchased potting mix, or seed starting mix, or whatever more finely textured soil I had on hand.

Seeds I have done this way: acanthus (bear's breeches), alcea (hollyhocks), alliums, anemone, antirrhinum (snapdragon), aquilegia (columbine), baptisia, calendula, cardoons, caryopteris, catalpa, cotinus, crambe cordifolia, dianthus (Sweet William biennial), delphinium (larkspur), dipsacus (teasel), eucomis (pineapple lily), lamium (dead nettle), liatris (gayfeather), lychnis coronaria, onopordum (Scotch thistle), monarda, origanum 'Kent Beauty', oxydendrum (lily of the valley tree), papaver (poppy), paulownia (Empress tree), poncirus (Japanese bitter orange), stachys byzantine (lamb's ear), verbascum, veronica, and viburnum.

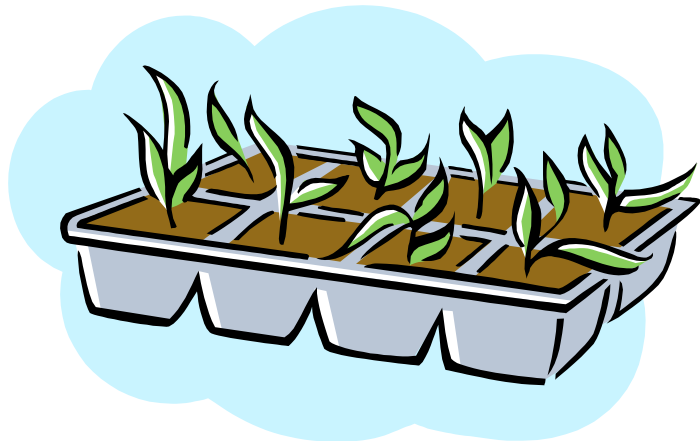
Wintersown seeds- By now you may have read about this or seen crazy people with scads of ugly liter pop bottle greenhouses on their back patios. Go to the wintersown.org website for specifics on possible structures and lists of seeds with the times to start them.

I no longer use the pop bottles unless desperate and have transitioned to tall plastic clamshell containers whenever possible. I don't tape them closed anymore, although I do tape over excessive drainage slits on the bottoms of organic salad clamshells. It works better for me to break down and transplant these clamshell-started seedlings into old nursery cellpacks. (Yes, I do have to bleach the cellpacks in my laundry sink.)

As to timing, my early/mid-spring blooming flowers and early vegetables (lettuces) are planted first, in mid-January. My heat-loving zinnias, marigolds, and cosmos must wait until mid-March. It may be hard to wait, but patience must have her perfect work. Mid-march is the earliest I will venture into Mexican natives, tropicals, or sunflower derivatives.

As the third method of seed-starting, all of the mid-March heat-loving annuals/perennials can also be direct sown when the soil temperatures reach 60 degrees.

If you have your own twists on seed-starting, please write them up for the next newsletter, because I'm always looking for improvements on yields.



MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR

BY Ann Barklow

It is that time again to select a Lakelands Master Gardener worthy of the award of Master Gardener of the Year! The reason this honor is so prestigious is because it is given by our peers. Please send me any suggestions of members that might fit the below criteria by December 10. The MG doesn't have to have done all of the below bullet points but the more well rounded they are the more knowledgeable they are about the organization and the better candidate for this award. Board officers are exempt from this honor. The presentation will be made at our annual meeting on February 13.

Criteria:

1. In order to be considered for this award, the Master Gardener must be in good standing (paid dues)
2. The Master Gardener with the total number of points will be the recipient of the award. Each category below is worth 5 points.

- Attendance at Meetings (Board, General, and Committee)
- Board Member or Officer
- Assists with Master Gardener Class
- Committee Chair
- Community project participation
- Fundraising
- Office Volunteering
- Mentoring
- Newsletter Submission
- Programs for General Meetings
- Speaking Engagements
- Website and FB updates

BITS AND PIECES

- *Thank you to all who have already sent in your hours and miles! The very important year-end 4th quarter report will be given to James by the 15th, so please have your hours (workdays, research, new class helper, garden club speaker, research for an article, phone calling, etc...) and miles (distance to and from a class, seminar or work site) to me by the **10th of December**. Your time is valuable not only to us, but to also the representatives that allow the funds to support the extension office. If you have any questions, please call me at 374-7253 or e-mail me at halseyfarm@embarqmail.com.*
- *We are trying something new with the volunteer hour reporting, each month a form will be sent with the newsletter. Each month fill out your hours and send it in to Linda Halsey at mrs.lindahalsey@gmail.com*
- *Susi Bender donated Elliot Coleman's book "Four- Season Harvest " to the Greenwood Public Library for all to enjoy.*
- *Our Christmas get together is December 12th at Greenwood Metro District—please RSVP to Donna Feldmaier how many are coming and what dish you are bringing. donnafeldy@aol.com*
- *Master Gardener of the Year selection— see article in this month's newsletter*
- *The **SC Midlands Master Gardener Association (SCMMGA)** would like to thank all who attended our recent annual Garden Symposium. We hope you enjoyed a delightful day visiting with other garden enthusiasts, shopping for new plants and garden accessories, and expanding your knowledge of gardening. Our Symposium Committee has begun planning another great Garden Symposium scheduled for **October 23, 2014**. We are in the process of contacting a number of outstanding speakers. You will not want to miss this next exciting event. Reminders with details will be sent to you as well as posted on the SCMMGA website at www.scommga.org*
- *The **Greater Greenville Master Gardeners** invite you to their gardening symposium, February 1, 2014, at the TD Convention Center, Greenville, SC, The day will be divided into five sessions, with three featured speakers. Participants will choose among concurrent speakers for the second and fourth sessions. Extra brochures may be obtained by printing from the website, www.ggmga.org. Sorry, no refunds can be offered for this event. (Last year this sold out quickly!!) Brochure is attached to this newsletter.*

TOPIARY PLANTS

(This monthly article will highlight some of the plant species for the Festival of Flowers topiaries)

by Ann Barklow

Horticultural Crew Chief for the City of Greenwood

Helichrysum microphyllum 'Silver Mist' (Hel-ih-KRY-sum my-crow-FILL-um)

Helichrysum is a Genus of plants with over 600 species. If you Google the name it will likely send you to the healing properties of this plant since it is used as an Essential Oil and is known for its restorative properties and provides excellent support to the skin, liver and nervous system. I particularly liked the description that helichrysum is a grounding oil and brings warmth to one dealing with emotional coldness. I'm looking forward to spending time with this plant. For more information on the healing properties of this plant please contact fellow master gardener, Paddy Huff. 391-1947 paddyhuff30@gmail.com

This is a Mediterranean plant and many species are grown in California, South Africa, Italy, Spain and France. What that tells me is that it likes a dry summer. This is why we have to experiment with it. It will get summer rain but hopefully with the sharp drainage of the moss it will do well.

The particular species and variety we will be using is *Helichrysum microphyllum* 'Silver Mist' with the common name of Licorice Plant. It will grow 6 to 8" in height and has a mounding spreading habit with a width of 14 to 18". It's hardiness zone is 9b to 11 so it will be treated as a spring/summer annual. It was used on the topiaries in Montreal, Canada.

On Dave's Garden site there is no negative comments and has been grown in Raleigh, NC and Summerville, SC along with many other states. I have read that handling the plants can cause irritation or allergic reactions and it also is a host plant to some caterpillars. I research plants very thoroughly and talk to my boss about them before we try them. We are hoping to use this on the cow and the chest of the Tiger if all goes well.

Why does this plant make an ideal topiary plant? It has these fine qualities:

- Moderate grower
- Sun to Part Shade
- Drought and Heat Tolerant
- Hot Summer Survivor
- Takes shearing well
- Easily propagated from cuttings
- Silver soft foliage that reflects colors around it

What are it's drawbacks:

- Doesn't like wet foliage in the evening because of *Botrytis* fungus
- Caterpillar damage possible
- Irritating to the skin possible
- Needs full sun for the best silvery appearance (will be light green in a spring greenhouse)

Master Gardener class of 2013 hard at work taking their final exam—
Welcome Interns!



Getting Hours Behind the Scenes

by Ann Barklow

You don't have to have a project or work on a project to get your hours. If you are involved in any of the local schools, community gardens, neighborhoods, you can get hours for teaching the knowledge you have gained from the class to others.

Here is a picture of a tree planting class I taught at Lander University. Chuck Bender and I volunteer for their Lander Arboretum Committee and Chuck and I get hours for attending the meetings and he also gets hours for going to the campus and working with the Assistant to the President, Dee DeWitt on running drip systems, planting trees, etc.

A student asked me if she could help with her church landscape. Of course we can get hours for being a labor force in our community but better yet help clean up, prune, design or plant with an educational component with it. That is more along our mission.

I taught our grounds committee at our Homeowners Association how to prune crepe myrtles correctly while we pruned them. I could have gone and pruned them but better yet arrange an educational workshop and have them help too! Remember that education is our primary goal. You may not think you have enough knowledge to do this but you more than likely have more than they do and you know how to find out if you don't. The more you teach the more you will learn.



If you have questions about something you want to do and wonder if it can be counted for hours contact Linda Halsey halsey-farm@embarqmail.com, James Hodges jmhodge@clemsun.edu or me annbarklow@embarqmail.com and we will help you.

If you are worried about getting enough hours if you are currently an intern with the possibility of graduating to master gardener this February contact me and I will help you get your hours.

Enabling a Young Tree

by Ann Barklow

We all know how hard it is to not help someone even when we know they will grow better if they can weather the storm on their own. Helping others can sometimes hinder their growth if we prevent them from experiencing the things that will help them mature and thrive. What does that have to do with raising a young tree to be strong and healthy?

I like to refer to tight and secure staking (like the picture above) as "enabling" since it is generally done with the best of intentions. In understanding the biology of trees, this type of staking restricts the trees movement and will prevent the tree from developing a good trunk taper and healthy root system and it could also suffer girdling or rubbing injuries.

On this particular tree, I removed the tight straps and replaced it with a loose figure eight flexible tie which will allow the tree to grow healthier. The goal of staking, if it is even necessary, is just to keep the plant from blowing over until it establishes a root system that will hold it up. This is usually accomplished in one year.

When we allow a tree to have movement, the response from the tree will be to build taper and root structure. When it bends and moves, it responds by growing stronger, similar to human muscles after exercise. This occurs naturally, from the blowing of the wind. This response is called *thigmotropism*, the growth response as a result of force, and is important for tree development.





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www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

Shutterfly - <http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com>

Clemson Cooperative Extension Office– Greenwood– 864-223-3264



Don't forget the photos from our Christmas social and other LMG events are on our Shutterfly page. (see link above) You can leave comments or download photos from the Shutterfly page. The password has been sent in the email with this newsletter attached.

LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS

Lakelands Master Gardener Name Badge Order Form

Master Gardener Information			
Last Name		First Name	
Mailing Address			
City		Zip Code	
Home ()	Cell ()	Other ()	
e-mail address			
For Office Use Only	Received	Confirmation	Delivered

Orders are filled upon receipt of order form. There is no deadline to send money and form to Patti. Please **Print** Information the way you would like it to appear on your name badge

Cost: \$10/badge
Cash or Check accepted
Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners
Remit Payment and Order Form together to:
Chuck Bender
998-3123
108 Inlet Point
Cross Hill, SC 29332



☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2013.html>

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

President- Ann Barklow	Finance and Fund Raising – open (plant sale) Sarah Carroll & Ginny Wilson	FB – Ann Barklow, Web – open
Vice President – vacant		Social – Donna Feldmaier and Chris Moon
Treasurer- Chuck Bender	Membership – Sandy Orr	Office- Vince Plotczyk
Secretary – Steve Tabor	Co chair -Linda Halsey (hours)	
Past President- Jimmy McInville	Newsletter – Janet Ledebuhr	
Clemson Advisor- James Hodges	Phone -Priscilla Ellis	
Community Projects – Jimmy McInville and Sue Monaghan	Programs and Speakers –	
Education Chair- Linda Halsey	Media – PR– Trish Bridges	